

The Standing Stones

The standing stones link in with the idea of diffusionism that Gibbon presents the readers. They also have a large link with Chris as every time she visits them, we can see her getting calmer throughout the use of her dialect and punctuation. They soothe her.

The standing stones are the idea of bringers of civilisation as they are thought to have been brought from Egypt and apparently marks the end of their working terms.

Said stones are eventually made into the war memorial for the lives of those lost in WW1 during the course of the book.

The stones scare Guthrie although he might not fully understand them. This is because the corruption of the church makes him scared about the bringers of civilisation making him lose everything as he is a crofter and they make him start to realise his own corruption.

The younger Reverend Colquhoun understands the significance of the standing stones and he is the one who makes them into the war memorial.

Gibbon

After a new minister position opens up, three ministers are allowed to give one preach to the people of the church for a general vote as to who pleases the most people. One of these is Colquhoun (who is the father of the Colquhoun that Chris falls in love with at the end of the novel).

Gibbon, is described as being a man with no principles at all. He will constantly change his views throughout the book to please others and to make himself appear more likeable to other characters throughout.

Gibbon is a satirical and cynical man and ends up appointed as the new church minister by preaching about the beauty of the church in ways similar to the beauty of a woman.

His physical appearance is described as being very bull like, e.g fat, angry, rosy cheeks.

Bulls are also known for their sexual appetite which becomes easy to spot amongst Guthrie when a new sinister lust for his daughter is revealed to the readers.

Chris instantly decides that "she knew he was to please them all". She knows the man has little principles but does not quite realise he has none at all. She also calls him a "pretty man" which is satirical as it is humorous. The only person to fully see through Gibbon's act is Long Rob.